# NICKELS AND

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How many people know the reason for the milled edges on coins? It was introduced through the necessity of preventing "clipping" and "sweating." That gentle art consisted of shaving the edges of coins to obtain the gold or silver and then passing them off for their full face value. Strong laws against this practice were enacted from time to time, ever since money was invented. It was even treated as treason and made subject to severe punishment, but notwithstanding this curb persons of good position. and sometimes high ecclesiastics, were found guilty. Clipping was at last stopped by the introduction in 1003 of milling the edges of coins. Only those of higher denominations were thus treated, and pennies and nickels to this day have smooth edges.

To anyone who has delved even a little bit into the subject of "money" the fascination numismatics holds for coin collectors is readily understandable. One of the first things man invented, money has had a long and interesting history.

Coins as we see them today are the result of a development more or less haphazard. An example of this is found in the mark resembling a new moon which almost every Chinese coin bears. This originated in an accident during the time of Empress Wentek. in 620 A. D. The wax model of a proposed coin was presented to her majesty for approval. In taking hold of the model she left the impression of her thumb nail on it, and as a result, it has been a marked characteristic of Chinese coins for hundreds of years. It was even copied in Japan and Korea.

The origins of money terms are interesting. In 270 B. C., the Romans, who had been saved from defeat in battle by a warning that the Goddess Juno was supposed to have given, surnamed her "Moneta" from "monere" (to warn), and erected a temple which | tablished by digging up their coins in they called by this name. Shortly distant countries.

as a mint. It was only pateral that

The word "dollar" is derived from

the German "thal," meaning vale or valley. In 1484 the German (now Austrian) government coined a certnin piece of silver called "crown." This was the first coin as far as we know to be of the size and weight of the coins which were later known as pieces-of-eight, piastres, dollars, etc. In 1516 a Bohemian feudal lord named Count Schlick coined some pieces of silver of this size at a mint in Joachim's Thal, or Joachim's Vale, in Bohemia. They were first known as Schlicktenthalers and Joachimsthalers -afterward abbreviated to "thalers." These coins were circulated in Bohemia and the low countries, where they were variously called "thalers," "dallers," "daalers," etc. They even reached Constantinople and were named "aslani." When Charles V, king of Spain, heard of Schlicktenthalers he decided to adopt the size as standard. So he coined eight Spanish reals of silver, which amounted to about

America by the continental congress. The sign of a dollar (\$) came about in this way: When Charles V designed pieces-of-eight the two pillars of Hercules were placed on one side with a scroll forming an "S" and the words "Plus ultra." This made a crude "\$." It came to be used as a sign for pieces-of-eight-afterward dollar.

the size of a thaler, and called them

"pieces-of-eight" and "dollers." This

coin in July, 1796, was adopted in

The word "carnt" originated in the East and signified beans of a locust tree. These beans were used from time immemorial among eastern nations as a weight, just as barley and wheat have been with us.

Money was called "cash" by the ancient Hindus (from "karsha-pana," a coin). "Coin" comes from the Latin word "cuneus," a die or stamp. "Guineas" is dubbed from the country in which the gold was obtained. 'Franc" is the abbreviation of the inscription Francorum Rex. "Shilling" comes from a root signifying to divide.

Ancient coins are often valuable for the history inscribed on them. Victories have been commemorated and rulers immortalized through the medium of coins. Further, the movements of people have often been es-

## How the Bank Note **Originated**

Hard-Pressed Chinese Prime Minister Responsible; Curious Forms of Money Used in Au-cient Times

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It is an interesting fact that many new ideas in banking originated end of the eighth century the scarcity through the financial difficulties of of copper grew so general that rent monarchs. Once, in 119 B. C., Emperor Outl of China discovered that his finances were in bad shape. So straitened was the treasury and so It was employed in this manner in Iregloomy the outlook that the emperor land down to the twelfth century and summoned his prime minister. This is still in use in the interior of Africa. digultary was made to understand that | The carliest western coinage was eiththe condition must be remedied forthwith or dire consequences to himself would result.

As the prime minister bowed and scraped his way out of the royal presence a great idea struck him. You see, it was the custom in this court, when princes or courtiers had audience with the emperor, to cover their faces with a piece of skin. So the hard-pressed prime minister conceived the plan of having a decree issued providing that for this purpose only the skin of a certain white deer kept in one of the royal parks should be permitted. He put the plan in execution and the pieces of skin were sold for high prices, thereby solving the financial problem.

In this manner the first bank notes were issued. It soon became customary for the nobles to circulate the skins among one another, and while they did not enter into general circulation, the prime minister's ingenious idea is believed to have constituted the actual beginning of paper cur-

The temptation to create money by the issuing of notes in excessive quantities has long been a characteristic of potentates. In many countries it was necessary to deprive the ruler of his power to issue movey and the right was bestowed on private institutions. In 1832 A. D. the emperor of Tartary made money of paper and leather to such an extent that gold and silver fell into disuse. At one time it took 1,000 min, or \$15,000, in paper money to buy a cake of rice. This reckless issuing of notes eventually placed the money in such disrepute that in 1686 there was no trace of it left.

China was no doubt the first country to use coins. It had a system of its own as far back as 2,250 B. C. Its "Pu" money is interesting. These coins were apparently made before the Chinese began to write, or before it occurred to them to place on coins their denominations. At any rate, they adopted the rather laborious plan of indicating value by making the coin in the shape of the article it could purchase. Thus, they had a knife coin, consisting of a regular blade and

n round handle with a hole in the latter, for convenience in stringing the coins. Later, the blade part was left off and only the circular handle remained (making its present shape). Coins were also issued in the shape of shirts, hoes, sickles, spades, etc. Leave it to the Chinese to devise queer but ridiculously simple makeshifts!

What was often an acute problem in the East is shown by an act of the empress of Japan, near the end of the sixth century. She ordered the bronze statue of Siaka to be cast into coins and a plaster one erected in its place. The colnage was continually being upset by the great absorption of coins to be cast into Buddhist images. At the

was universally paid in rice. In Egypt and Babylon copper was used in bricks, but generally in rings. er that of Lydia or Pheidon. The Greeks and the Romans employed

The Carthagians seemed to possess a form of currency similar to bank notes. These notes consisted of small pieces of leather in which a substance, known only to the maker, was wrapped. It was then sealed and issued for circulation. These issues were made only under the authority of the state.

It is significant of the extent to which money and banking is allied with progress that in the middle ages money became practically unknown.

The Dangers of Opulence. It takes fortitude, stability, manli-

ness and courage to be a good man in the face of temptations, obstacles, and adverse surroundings. It requires just as much moral staming to conquer the temptations of opulence as it does to combat the onslaughts, of calamitous circumstances.

Of 1,000 Americans, only 99 are savings bank depositors. The proportion in Italy is 288; Japan, 270; Tasmania. 270; Australia, 300; England, 302; Germany, 317; Holland, 325; France, 346; Switzerland, 544.

Waste in American kitchens at be ginning of war amounted to \$700,000,000,000 a year. If the war eliminates permanently this one sin it will have its redeeming qualities.

There are in the United States 1,250,-000 dependent wage earners who failed to save money and are costing this country \$22,000,000 a year.

The Security of Thrift.

Those who are thrifty never wholly fail; they may not reach the beights, but they never will reach the depths

America allows to be wasted, each year, through the activities of rats. grain and other property produced by the constant labor of 200,000 men.

Forty-six out of 100 average American men have saved nothing at fortyfive years of age.

Daniel Webster-1782-1862. Mind is the great lettr of all things; human thought is the process by which

human ends are ultimately answered Knowledge, in truth, is the great sun

in the firmament. Life and power are Let our object be our country, whole country, and nothing but our

nothing else, that alone would have entitled them to the respect of mankind -Address.

Sink or swim, live or die, survive o perish, I give my hand and my heart to this vote,—Eulogy on Adams and

## DESTRUCTION CAUSED BY HALIFAX SHIP EXPLOSION



Above, the ruins of the Richmond railway station and docks near which occurred the explosion of a French amou nition ship that wrought such devastation id Halifax and its saburbs. Below, a view along Barrington street where

## WATCHING FOR SUBMARINES FROM BRIDGE OF DESTROYER



Scene on the bridge of an American destroyer in the east Atlantic, where the men are ever on the lookout for German submarines and other enemy craft. Each man wears his life preserver and is ready for any emergency.

### ENEMY ALIENS MUST WATCH THEIR STEP



"Notice to Enemy Allens" signs have been posted on streets and avenues along the waterfront in coast cities warning against trespass. Our subject, following the "get-out" order, must pick his steps while on a moving expedi-

Addresses of manufacturers of tar

As indicative of the present carn-

that a vessel recently arrived in Liv-

erpool with a cargo of 45,000 cases of onions from Valencia, which earned

more than \$187,000 for the nine days'

age of increase takes no account of 40 men taking military French. The fall-

ing off in beginning German is almost

extracting machinery are wanted by

an Allendale, S. C., firm.

### BRIEF AND BREEZY

The best isinglass comes from Russia. It is made from the giant sturgeon, which abounds in the Caspian sen and other waters of that country. For the use of bow-legged men a light, flexible frame has been invented to be strapped to a leg by a garter to make trousers hang straight. To praise justly is to pay an honest

sebts to flatter is merely a gift. The following fruits, vegetables, etc. have been in cultivation over 4,000 years : Atmoud, apple, apricot, banana cabbage, cucumber, date, egg-fig, grape, office, onion, peach,

## **WOOLEN HELMET IS WARM**



The boys in France who have thoughtful friends at home are wear ing these warm woolen helmets which protect the head and part of the face. They are especially suitable for avia

### Glorified Junk. "The queerest thing about the war to

me," said a junkman whose business runs into five figures annually, "Is the fact that it has made even old tin cans valuable. One Iowa junkman who had been holding his stock of scrap iron old brass, rags, rubber and paper for higher prices sold his hoarded junk at the end of the first year of war for \$100,000. Junk is tremendously valuable. Now attempts are being made to salvage the tin film on so-called 'tin caps' by melting them. Tin is very valuable as a war metal and the despised 'tin can' is becoming an economic asset where formerly it was a linbility. Rags, tin and battered old ing power of steamers, it is reported copper bollers, brass candlesticks, stove lids and old newspapers, rubber wires, aluminum and lead have doubled and quadrupled in price since the great war began." About 60 per cent more students are studying French in the University of Washington this year. The percent-

Strange that story told some years ago about an ancient tree-in a coun-

## Thanksgiving Day Especial Event

WASHINGTON.—Thanksgiving time brought hearth fires and turkey-scented invitations in hon in national livery who are far from home and mother. board this year that did not boast a khaki-covered guest or so. Father and nother piled high the strangers' plates

jocosely. Never mind the mist in their "Yes, I'm proud of my Jimmy; but I'm not a heroine. I'm just his moth

er!" Exalted eloquence! They had a grand memorial service for Jimmy at Evansville, Ind., his home town, when the dread word came that Private James B. Gresham, enlisted at nineteen—such a kid!—was one of the

MY-Y- KING-

DOM- FOR-RR

MORE SPACE

first three Americans killed in the trenches of northern France. mother in her anguish, thanking God for the proud gift of such a boy out to those who would fain console her, "I'm not a heroine-I'm just his

And I'm rather inclined to think that she was both,

The other night there was an interesting vaudeville entertainment given by patriotic local telent before the men at Washington barracks. The wee daughter of Representative Kincheloe of Kentucky accompanied her mother to the performance. Mrs. Kincheloe, a versatile artist, was one of the headilners of the excellent bill. The orchestra was filling up the space between two numbers with a strenuous regulition of "Over There" when tiny Miss Kincheloe, just three years old, escaping from her protector, inspired by the stirring strains, scrambled up on the low stage and began to dance in a spontaneous baby way that overwhelmed the soldiers with delight. The regular program had to wait. The laddles wanted more of the baby. Grown folk were everyday affairs. A kiddle was a treat.

## Government Departments Hard Pressed for Room

THE treasury department is in the market for 185,000 square feet of floor space for office purposes, and is having great difficulty in getting even a small portion. Other government departments are hard pressed for office

accommodations for employees, and it will not be until various new buildings authorized by congress are completed that real relief will come.

The government's executive and administrative activities are now so badly scattered throughout the city that persons having business with Uncle Sam often find trouble in locating the particular bureau or division they are looking for. Many times they are sent from one piace to another.

The war and pavy departments,

which partly solved the demands for floor space at the beginning of the war by taking over a large number of apartment houses, and are still badly in need of office accommodation, are expecting relief by March 1, when it is contemplated that the big wooden buildings at Sixth and B streets, the site of the old Union station, where Garfield was shot by Gulten, will be ready for occupancy.

## Would Fight to Prove Nationality of Bambino

T IS a street of second-hand smells. Also, there are noises—the Babel shrill of foreign parent voices outclashed by the raw Americanism of their junlors; the insistent call of the push cart, and always, always the comings and goings of job-lot humanity that must buy other people's cust-off's, because-SHE IS AMERRY-CA

everybody knows why. But at one corner the other morning the sun lay like a yellow blanket on the pavement and the leaves swirled down from the trees as if dying were a gay sort of dance. Also, there was a box, and on the box sat a small girl in blue holding a baby with rings in its ears. The girl was a skinny little tucker, with a dark face, mostly eyes, 63/and as she cuddled the baby her croon-



ing voice somehow suggested olives. Vesuvius, wayside shrines and banana carts. But there was nothing Latin about the fat, bald-headed baby, except the rings in its ears. As the two made a picture worth looking at, the woman paused and offered the baby an apple from a bag. "She Amerry-can baby"—the girl explained it with a pride that was some-

thing fine to see. "She is not no dago. She have carrings because my marmer she say so, and her saint name is Magdalena-but my par-per he my it is Maggee for Amerry-can and if she be a boy she be president, maybee." "Why, that is splendid. And what is your name?"

"I am Marree-ah, after the Moth-er of God. My mar-mer give me to ber at the cathedral in Milan. I wear blue all the time I am a child. When I am beeg I have a pink ribbon bow in my hair and a green dress and felluh to go with. But the bambino-no, the babee she come when we get here. No boy shall call her dage. I will fight heem. I will keel heem if he call her dago.

That's about all, only-One would like to know in advance what America will do for Maggee, whose saint's name is Magdalena, when she is no longer a fat, beld-headed baby with rings in her ears.

## Opinions as to the Training of Officers Differ

COMPREHENSIVE plan to train reserve officers and their more systematic A employment in the war has been submitted to the secretary of war by the Training Camps association. In addition to establishment of a school or



schools for training of offic tinue without interruption instead of for a few months only, as in the training camps, the association recommend that a certain number of recery cers should be sent to France for actual experience with the troops in the field and later brought home to act as instructors of troops being prepared for war service.

The association also notes an objection to the understood purpose of the war department to abandon all training camps for officers and to obtain a supply of efficers in fature solely from the ranks, with the training of the supply of efficers in fature solely

from the ranks, with the training for commissioned grades gives at the quarters of the several military divisions. Apparently the proposal that reserve officers be sent to France for training under actual war conditions and then returned to train the National army does not appeal to the war department.

## War Has Had Remarkable Effect on the Capital

T 18 a much more picturesque Washington than it used to be, althous used to be the most picturesque city in the country. The saiders and color to crowds that formerly were somber or drab. But the variety and color to crowds that formerly were so of leisure is gone. No more can Wash-

ington be described as "Sleepy Hol-It is impossible to walk along the streets without being impressed by the sense of importance in many of the faces, the consciousness of being engaged in great affuirs. The idealists jostle the exploiters who have come in swarms to struggle for a share in the big contracts, in competition with the men of legitimate business Many of the idealists have left fine po

ditions at home to work here for small salaries or for no salaries at all, happ public service. Hotels, spertment ho so crowded that prices have sourced